

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fogelberg.

Fogelberg discloses an anti-rattle system including first and second parts, with one of the parts includes a pair of deformable pressure discs. The other part includes a friction disc with an outer periphery positioned between the parallel flat surfaces of the pair of discs so that they are spread apart by the friction disc.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite a gear drive mechanism with an anti-rattle device and includes a first friction disc having a first friction rim surface that is rotationally coupled to the first gear and has a first frusto-conical shape, and a second friction disc having a second friction rim surface that is rotationally coupled to the second gear and has a second frusto-conical shape. The first friction rim surface and the second friction rim surface are in mutual contact with each other and thereby enabled to transmit a friction-based torque between each other. One of the first and second friction rim surfaces is elastically biased against the other friction rim surface which permits the one disc to adapt itself elastically to the shape of the neighboring disk.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above feature, namely an elastic frusto-conically shaped disk, is neither disclosed nor suggested by Fogelberg and provides an arrangement that offers a number of advantages. In particular, the present arrangement and construction of the friction rim surfaces requires more space in the axial direction. One of the drawbacks of the cited reference is that the friction of the outer disk against the inner disk causes wear, and thus, there is not defined transfer ratio between the clamping disks bearing against the outside and the intermediate disk.

As set forth in the amended claims, at least one friction rim surface is in the form of a disk-shaped elastic element. This allows one disk-shaped friction member to interface with the



In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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